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PAGE 01 STATE 254872 202102Z
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INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AMAD-01	ARA-01	A-01	CIAE-00
	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	EAP-01	EUR-01	OIGO-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-16	JUSE-00	L-01	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00
	OIC-02	OIG-04	OIS-01	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	SP-00
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APPROVED BY: AF/P:MSWANN

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UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 254872 202102Z

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, PREL, XA, US
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - SEPTEMBER 20, 1994

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 254872 202102Z

1. THE FOLLOWING IS RWANDA PRESS GUIDANCE (AF).

2. AF PRESS GUIDANCE - RWANDA: HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY RPF

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THE RPF HAS COMMITTED HUMAN RIGHTS ATROCITIES? WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

A: THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF HARASSMENT AND REPRISALS BY RPF SOLDIERS AND RETURNING TUTSI REFUGEES AGAINST HUTUS, PARTICULARLY IN SOUTHEASTERN RWANDA. THE CONTINUED OUTFLOW OF REFUGEES TO TANZANIA HAS BEEN OF PARTICULAR CONCERN.

FROM THE TIME WE FIRST HEARD THESE REPORTS, WE URGED THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA TO INVESTIGATE AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION. WE MADE THIS POINT BOTH THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN KIGALI AND IN MEETINGS BETWEEN VISITING U.S. OFFICIALS AND

RWANDAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE PRESIDENTIAL MISSION ALSO RAISED THESE REPORTS.

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THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT ASSURED US THAT REPRISALS ARE NOT THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAID THEY BELIEVED THE ATTACKS WERE ISOLATED INCIDENTS AND THAT THEY WERE WORKING TO ENSURE DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE MILITARY.

SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION SUGGESTS THAT THE PROBLEM MAY BE MORE WIDESPREAD THAN ORIGINALLY REPORTED. THE UN IS INVESTIGATING AND INTENDS TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE
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PAGE 04 STATE 254872 202102Z
RWANDAN GOVERNMENT. WE INTEND TO DO THE SAME.

UNDER SECRETARY WIRTH ARRIVES IN RWANDA TODAY AND, ALONG WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICA, PRUDENCE BUSHNELL, WILL RAISE OUR CONCERN WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

Q: OTHER THAN DEMARCHE, WHAT ELSE ARE THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY DOING TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM?

A: THE U.S. IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE UN TO COMPLETE DEPLOYMENT OF UNAMIR AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THERE ARE ALREADY ABOUT 4,200 UNAMIR PERSONNEL IN RWANDA; THE 5,500 FORCE SHOULD BE FULLY DEPLOYED BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

UNAMIR HAS AS ITS MANDATE TO HELP PROTECT CIVILIAN POPULATIONS. WE ARE DISCUSSING WITH THE UN WAYS TO REDIRECT DEPLOYMENT OF SOME OF THE FORCE TO THE AREAS WHERE ABUSES HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

IN ADDITION, WE ARE PUSHING TO HAVE THE UN COMPLETE DEPLOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE FIRST GROUP OF 25 SHOULD BE ON THE GROUND BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

THE U.S. HAS PLEDGED A VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION OF DOLLARS 750,000 AND HAS BEEN ASSISTING THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO EXPEDITE PLANNING AND RECRUITMENT OF MONITORS. THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER'S PLAN OF ACTION INCLUDES APPROXIMATELY 150 MONITORS, FORENSICS EXPERTS, AND OTHER SPECIALISTS, AND THE UN WILL BE APPEALING FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THESE ADDITIONAL
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PAGE 05 STATE 254872 202102Z
PERSONNEL.

WE ARE ALSO PRESSING FOR RAPID COMPLETION OF THE WORK OF THE UN COMMISSION OF EXPERTS AND SPEEDY ESTABLISHMENT OF A UN WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL TO BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE

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3

RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE, WAR CRIMES, OR OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ATROCITIES. THE COMMISSION IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE ITS INTERIM REPORT IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO, AND WE INTEND TO MOVE QUICKLY THEREAFTER IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A TRIBUNAL.

Q: WOULD THE TRIBUNAL ALSO PROSECUTE CASES INVOLVING RPF ATTACKS?

A: WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE TRIBUNAL MUST BE EVEN-HANDED IN METING OUT JUSTICE AND THAT ALL PERSONS WHO HAVE COMMITTED VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN RWANDA SINCE APRIL -- REGARDLESS OF WHICH SIDE THEY MAY HAVE FOUGHT FOR OR SUPPORTED -- SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL.

Q: WHAT IMPLICATIONS DO THESE REPORTS HAVE ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN RWANDA?

A: WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT THAT OUR RELATIONS AND ASSISTANCE DEPEND ON SERIOUS EFFORTS BY THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT TO CREATE CONDITIONS THAT WILL PROMOTE REFUGEE RETURN, INTERNAL RECOVERY, AND ULTIMATELY,

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 254872 202102Z
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

WE HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL ACT QUICKLY TO END THESE ATTACKS AND INVESTIGATE PAST INCIDENTS SO THAT INNOCENT LIVES ARE PROTECTED AND REFUGEES WILL FEEL SAFE TO RETURN. THIS WOULD ALLOW US TO CONTINUE DEVELOPING OUR RELATIONS AND ASSISTING THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND ITS PEOPLE TO RECOVER FROM THE WAR AND MOVE TO NATIONAL RECONCILIATION.

Q: IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGING REFUGEES TO RETURN? IF SO, WILL THESE REPORTS CAUSE YOU TO CHANGE

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THAT POLICY?

A: OUR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE HAS NOT CHANGED. FROM THE BEGINNING, WE HAVE SUPPORTED THE CREATION OF CONDITIONS IN RWANDA THAT WILL FACILITATE THE VOLUNTARY RETURN OF REFUGEES IN SAFETY.

WE OPPOSE INVOLUNTARY REPATRIATION AND DO NOT SUPPORT ENCOURAGING REFUGEE RETURN IF IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT REPATRIATION CAN BE DONE SAFELY.

OUR DEMARCHE TO THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE REPORTS OF ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS, AND THE DEPLOYMENT OF EXPANDED UNAMIR AND HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS, ARE INTENDED TO IMPROVE THE SECURITY SITUATION AND THEREBY FACILITATE SAFE, VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION.

(IF ASKED:)

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PAGE 07 STATE 254872 202102Z

Q: WHO IS DOING THE ATTACKING? DOES THIS REFLECT A POLICY OF THE NEW RWANDAN GOVERNMENT?

A: THE REPORTS ARE STILL BEING INVESTIGATED BUT IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT RPF TROOPS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. WE DO NOT KNOW WITH CERTAINTY WHETHER THEY WERE ACTING ON THEIR OWN OR WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF ANYONE IN THE MILITARY COMMAND OR GOVERNMENT.

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